



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Last Sunday School for the year (For both adults & kids)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Children’s Christmas Presentation)

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

ADVENT THEME SERMON
LOVE

Speaker: Daniel Lara
Scripture: 1 John 4: 9- 10

God’s love is made visible in the birth of Jesus.

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger
C-D → Tim Archibald
E-H → David Street
I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

N-R → Tom Smith
S → Cory Leniuk
T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
🌐 www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca
☎ 403-347-7900
📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s
Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Life Group
We currently have eight life groups. Our Life Groups are centered on Member Care, Sermon Based Bible Discussion, and Vital Prayer. We pray that all church members will be invovled in a life group and be accountable to each other in spiritual growth, confess our sins to one another, pray for one another, stir up one another to love and good works, and bear one another’s burdens. “But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love. “- Eph. 4:15-16

🔔 “Christ is love covered over with flesh. The Christian life is the dwelling of God’s love in men, women, and children.”
-Joel Beeke, Family Worship Bible Guide

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
SUNDAY DECEMBER 28
6:00 pm Scholz’s Mission Report

YEAR 2026
SUNDAY JANUARY 4
10:30 am Communion
TUESDAY JANUARY 6
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth Group
SATURDAY JANUARY 10
7:00 pm SingPlus at Bethany
SUNDAY JANUARY 11
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Baby Dedication
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14
06:30 am Men’s Breakfast
09:30 am Seniors’ Ministry
SUNDAY JANUARY 18
10:30 am Baptism
12:00 pm Newcomers’ Lunch
MONDAY JANUARY 19
7:00 PM SLB Meeting

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
• Tim & Michelle Archibald
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
• Martin & Lorna Scholz
• Tom & Tina Smith
• Peter & Nancy Erratt
EVERY WEDNESDAY
• Don & Jan Collier
• David & Laurel Street
EVERY THURSDAY
• Mark & Shannia Guenther
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
• Lyndon & Leah Unger

If you would like to lead a life group, Please contact Martin Scholz or email the office for more details.

November Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$32,829	\$28,798.26

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Ric & Darlene Munro

1) Please pray for all those working and helping at the ministry centre and the church. Beside Hamdullah are these helpful men: Gazi, Fevzi, Selim, and Mithat. Many others pop in and help from time to time. Helping Elmas are Sevil, Songül, İmen, Gülhan, Lale and several other women. They serve in many ways and provide hospitality at the church and the ministry centre. Elmas would like to give Sevil, Songül, and İmen a small monthly salary of \$150 USD each. Please pray that we would know the mind of the Lord. These helpers are all either new believers or not yet believers.

And please continue to pray for a spiritually mature Turkish-speaking couple or singles with whom Hamdullah and Elmas can share the burden of helping new believers grow in grace.

2) Praise the LORD - a solution has been found. The children’s rooms, on the lower floor, have had a problem with an intense echo. The people leading the activities have said how difficult it is to share with the children. I (Richard) went into one room and found it almost impossible to have a conversation with one other person. The echo was that bad. We had a local sound-dampening expert come and evaluate the various rooms. He recommended for the main meeting room, the large children’s room and the main, smaller, activity room. We contracted for him to do the smaller activity room, and it has made a significant difference. Praise the LORD. This looks to be a solution we can apply to the other spaces when the LORD enables.

3) Pray for the believers - We, being humans, create a lot of problems for ourselves. Those growing up in a society with no Biblical foundation, teaching or examples have a whole raft of problems. They have all lived through, lost, and survived, and are now living with the trauma and problems caused by the earthquakes. Whatever extreme problem you can think of, they are found among humankind; it is found in our small fellowship. Of course, it is only the LORD who can set free, deliver, change, heal and make right. Please pray especially for Hamdullah and Elmas. Pray they may have wisdom, grace, understanding, compassion and the right words and actions as they seek to help and support the saints there.

4) Praise the LORD for the ongoing Friday evening discipleship course. This course is not a light Bible study. It is a serious, in-depth study giving both an overview of the whole Bible and our core beliefs as revealed throughout the canon of scripture. There is a time commitment and a labour commitment. Life often raises its head, and, at times, courses have had to be rescheduled because of schedule conflicts for the instructors. And of course, things can come up in the lives of those participating (one brother had an accident, and his shoulder was broken). There has been a timely reminder to all instructors and participants to make this a serious commitment. The blessing and fruit are there, as is the commitment and effort that is required. Please pray for them all, instructors and participants alike, that they may hear from God and grow in grace.

5) Praise the LORD, the natural gas line has been connected. However, the works remain incomplete. Evidently, the priority on connections is given to the state-built (TOKI) replacement flats for earthquake survivors. That is good - to have a priority of getting people out of emergency accommodation and into properly built flats. But that leaves the church in a bit of limbo. We have done everything required to have the gas connected... but we wait for the final act to be done (connecting the meters and commissioning the service). It is winter in Antakya, and whilst not cold by northern standards, it is cold enough for heating and the need for hot water is clear. We are patient in the LORD. Please pray they will be connected in God’s perfect timing. (same photo as nothing has changed in a month)

6) Praise the LORD - After a four-hour car journey, we arrived at the new building being opened and dedicated in the city of Adiyaman. Saints had gathered from all over Turkiye with many others coming from far beyond. There was a large contingent from South Korea. We heard the account of how, in the aftermath of the destruction of the earthquakes, the project of establishing a facility for the church in Adiyaman was born. God provided resources and workers, and at the conclusion of the project, many gathered there to dedicate the building and the Turkish leader of the work to what God is doing in that city. The church is small, and the town has an undercurrent of hostility to Christians and to Church. Please pray for the saints there and the leader of the work, Ali Bey.

7) Praise the LORD, we safely arrived back in the UK on 18 November. When you travel, you have some plans, expectations, and goals you wish to achieve when you arrive. However, on our return, our automobile, upon which many plans depended, would not run. It being a fairly modern vehicle, displayed a myriad number of frightening error messages. The bottom line is, it wasn’t going anywhere. Two days later, the RAC arrived and declared the 12-volt battery dead. That drives all the control software of the vehicle. This was not our plan, expectation or goal. This was not the worst thing (by a long shot) to happen, a mere inconvenience, but it was how our return to the UK began. God is good. I (Richard) have seen my doctor, and he has prescribed some cream to deal with my latest outbreak of solar keratosis (at least two spots were generated during our recent trip to Antakya). Otherwise, we are in good health for which we praise the LORD. God is good - always. Please pray that this time in the UK will be profitable. LORD willing, we plan to return to Antakya in late February.

We know God is good. He is gracious to us in so many ways. He is good, and He is good to us. He remains true, He is faithful, and He has promised never to leave our side. And so, whilst we are far from Antakya, and there is little, physically, we can do there, He is there, and He is active, alive, and working in the saints. Praise the LORD.

GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE

What are the different types of love mentioned in the Bible?

There are at least four different Greek words that are used for “love,” but not all of them are found in the New Testament. (Actually there are more than four Greek words for “love,” but usually it is these four that come up in discussions.)

The first Greek word for “love” is eros, which refers to romantic or sexual love. From it we get the word erotic. This specific word is not used in the New Testament.

The second is storge, which refers to familial love like that of a mother for her baby or of a brother and sister for each other. It is not used in the New Testament; however, the negative term astorgoi (“unloving”) is found in 2 Timothy 3:3, and a similar term, astorgous (“no love” in the NIV and “without natural affection” in the KJV), is found in Romans 1:31.

The third Greek word for “love,” philia, refers to friendship and comradery. This word is often translated as “friend” (one who is loved) in the New Testament. Once, in Romans 12:10, the New Testament uses the compound word philostorgos, which is translated in the NIV as “devoted . . . in love.”

Finally, agape is used to speak of God’s love that He has for the world and that Christians are supposed to emulate. This is the word for “love” that is most commonly used in the New Testament. For a while it was thought that Christians must have coined the word agape to speak of a godly kind of love that the Greek world knew nothing of. But the word agape was in fact in use in the Roman Empire, and it was not coined by Christians to communicate God’s love.

While these four terms do express different nuances of the concept of love, they cannot be pressed in every situation. At one time, many people thought that the Greek language had an almost mathematical precision. However, as more and more ancient Greek manuscripts are discovered (and as more careful research is done), we find that Greek is no more precise than most other languages. Many times people use words in ways that are not technically correct, and strict definitions of words are not always honored.

The distinctions between the different kinds of love do not completely hold up within the New Testament itself. Jesus says in Luke 6:32, “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.” Here, the word translated “love” is agape throughout the verse. How can sinners show God’s love for each other? Jesus’ point is that the kind of love sinners show for each other is not the selfless, sacrificial love that Christians are called to display. In Luke 7:5, the centurion is described as one who loves the nation of Israel—once again agape is the love mentioned here.

Most words can have a range of meaning, but the specific meaning of any word must be determined from the context. English speakers use the word love in a variety of ways from “I love ice cream” to “I love my wife” and many other things in between. No one gets confused by this because we understand what kind of love is meant from the context. When agape is used in the New Testament, it is usually in conjunction with some other words to give clarity as to the kind of love intended. Much of the time, agape is modified by the phrase tou theou (“of God”). The godly quality of agape is found in the modifying phrase, not just in the word itself. The revolutionary nature of love in 1 Corinthians 13 is found in the description of it there, not in the word itself. The type of love in view will always be clarified by the context.

Christianity introduced a new kind of love to the world, but Christians used words already in existence to explain the quality of this love. Love was communicated primarily by their self-sacrifice in imitation of Christ, not by the word agape.